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Action

Control: 17391

SS

Rec'd: October 23, 1962
6:41 p.m.

Info

FROM: Dakar

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 399, October 23, 8 p.m.

NIACT

ACTION DEPARTMENT 399, INFORMATION CONAKRY 19, PARIS 86.

ELITE

EYES ONLY

Reference: Department CIRCTEL 705, 706

In accordance with REFTEL I delivered to Senghor English text of President Kennedy's speech this afternoon. Fortunately, Senghor knows English and upon quick reading, particularly of key parts, he realized full significance of speech. He indicated that he could appreciate reasons for President's action but wanted more time to study situation. He also seemed pleased when I informed him that his Ambassador in Washington would be kept informed of developments.

I took occasion to raise matter of stopover in Dakar of Soviet plane en route to Havana (EMBTEL 375). He seemed unaware of details. (He has been heavily engaged in domestic political "crisis" during last five or six days). I pointed out Soviets could only fly to Havana via West Africa by making stop at either Dakar or Conakry and that Russians unable use Conakry because of Guinean lack appropriate fuel. I emphasized that under circumstances further use of Dakar to facilitate Soviet flights to Cuba would be viewed with great concern by Washington. Senghor seemed inclined.

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-2- 399, October 23, 8 p.m. from Dakar

inclined take favorable action on matter and requested I send him letter summarizing situation and emphasizing fact that Guinean Government was not cooperating. Such letter being delivered this evening.

In view Senghor's warm personal feelings toward President Kennedy, personal message to Senghor could prove most helpful. In addition pointing out gravity of situation and need for free world support, such message might also make appropriate reference our concern over possible further use of Dakar as key stopover for Soviet flights en route Cuba.

KAISER

TRT/10

NOTE: Advance copies to SS-O 10-23-62 CWO-M

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